



USAID | INDONESIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT

USAID EDUCATION PROGRAMS

(December 2005)

General questions about Decentralized Basic Education (DBE), Managing Basic Education (MBE) and USAID

1. Why is DBE only working in certain provinces -- East Java, Central Java, West Java, Banten, South Sulawesi, North Sumatra, and Aceh?

- USAID's overall country strategy for Indonesia focuses primarily on these 7 provinces to maximize integration and impact across all USAID programs.
- These provinces were selected because they comprise more than 70% of the population of all of Indonesia, so more beneficiaries can be reached in a cost effective manner.
- Aceh was added after the tsunami, reflecting USG commitment to supporting recovery and reconstruction in the province.
- It is envisioned that the program will reach additional provinces through public-private alliances (PPAs) and dissemination of best practices.

2. How are DBE districts selected? Why not more districts?

- Districts are selected based on established criteria and in collaboration with local and provincial counterparts.
- Selection criteria include:
 - Commitment to improving education,
 - Working with both urban and rural schools,
 - Presence of other donor and/or GOI activities to ensure coordination,
 - Synergy with other USAID programs active in the area,
 - School clusters.
- DBE will work in a total of 100 districts over 5 years. We have selected the first 26 districts in 2005. Additional districts will be selected in 2006 and 2008.

3. Which schools does DBE work with? How are they selected?

- DBE focuses on clusters of primary schools and some junior secondary schools. DBE assistance is open to all public, private, and religious schools that teach the national curriculum.
- Selection of school clusters was done according to objective criteria and in collaboration with district education counterparts.
- DBE is currently working in 485 schools in 26 districts. Additional schools and districts will be selected in 2006 and 2008.

4. How does USAID implement programs? Through Indonesian organizations?

- USAID implements its programs in partnership with the Government of Indonesia (GOI), through Strategic Objective Grant Agreements that set joint U.S. – Indonesia objectives in addressing key development challenges.
- USAID programs are carried out by competitively selected U.S. organizations who work in close partnership with Indonesian organizations and GOI counterparts.
- USAID programs are staffed by the best experts from both Indonesia and abroad. For the DBE program, 90% of the staff is Indonesian.

5. What is the difference between the USAID MBE and USAID DBE programs?

- MBE is the pilot program for DBE. The MBE program began in 2003, building upon proven models such as the UNICEF/UNESCO-funded CLCC (Creating Learning Communities for Children) project. MBE provides assistance to 20 districts in East and Central Java and will continue through March of 2007.
- The six-year DBE program (2004-2010) represents the U.S. government's long-term commitment to helping Indonesia improve the quality of education, as announced by President Bush during his visit to Indonesia in 2003. DBE has three major goals: help local governments and communities more effectively manage education services; enhance the quality of teaching and learning in the classroom to improve student performance in public and private schools; and provide youth with relevant work and life skills to compete for better jobs.
- In many cases, DBE builds upon MBE models in areas such as data collection, education financing, school-based management, and improved teaching and learning in the classrooms using PAKEM (active, joyful, creative and effective learning) techniques.

6. Why does the U.S. provide assistance to Indonesia? What does the U.S. gain?

- The U.S. and Indonesia have a long-standing and close relationship, working together for more than 50 years on development challenges.
- The U.S. and Indonesia share many values including a respect for diversity and tolerance as well as the desire to see children receive the best education possible.
- Education reflects the highest priorities of both President SBY and President Bush.
- The U.S. is firmly committed to supporting Indonesia's efforts to improve basic education so that children are well prepared to participate in Indonesia's thriving democracy and in the global economy.

7. Where does USAID funding come from?

- The U.S. Congress provides the funding for USAID activities on an annual basis. Those funds constitute direct bilateral assistance from the people of the United States to the people of Indonesia.
- The U.S. Congress is not directly involved in project design or project implementation, however USAID must satisfactorily justify its activities to Congress every year in order to continue to receive funding for its activities.

8. Why is USAID working in Islamic schools? Is it because of terrorism?

- USAID works in public, private and religious schools of all faiths. USAID's programs do not target any particular kind of school. Challenges in the education sector do not differentiate between public, private and religious schools.
- DBE provides technical assistance and training tools to improve the quality of teaching and learning in public and private, religious and non-religious schools.
- The U.S. education program aims to support Indonesia's strategy and efforts to provide education for all by 2015.
- About 20% of schools participating in the MBE and DBE programs are madrasahs.

9. What is the requirement to be a USAID and/or DBE consultant?

- USAID and DBE staffing and consulting opportunities are offered through a transparent and competitive process. Job openings are most often advertised in local newspapers. Candidates are selected based on clear evaluation criteria.

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT DBE AND USAID

10. Does DBE support school rehabilitation/construction? What about in Aceh?

- DBE does not provide funding for school rehabilitation or school construction.
- However, the DBE program includes training on how schools can better manage their funding in order to be able to make needed school repairs, such as mobilizing community support to better maintain school facilities.
- In Aceh, the DBE program focus on “human infrastructure” including local government management of education and improving the quality of teaching and learning. Other donors, such as UNICEF, GTZ (Germany), and Save the Children are supporting school reconstruction.

11. Does DBE provide books to schools?

- DBE will support improvements for school libraries, including books and other educational materials. DBE does not provide textbooks.
- The U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Sections provides books as well, including translations of English language material.

12. Will DBE work with Indonesian universities?

- DBE works closely with Indonesian universities in each province, and with the Open University, to strengthen teacher training and in-service professional development.

13. Does this program work with NU and Muhammadiyah?

- Yes, when NU or Muhammadiyah schools are included in the target cluster and teach the national curriculum.

14. Can USAID help with scholarships and training for teachers?

- Yes. In-service training for teachers is a major component of DBE. DBE will also fund a limited number of scholarships for study at U.S. universities.
- The U.S. Embassy also has scholarship programs for higher education opportunities in the U.S. through the Fulbright and other programs.

15. How will DBE contribute to sustainable local programs (district and community)?

- DBE works hand in hand with local authorities and community leaders.

- DBE is designed to support local government and community-led efforts and interest in improving the quality of basic education. DBE provides assistance to improve service delivery and in-service teacher training, for example, but success of the program depends on the level of ownership by local governments and communities.
- DBE will disseminate best practices to promote sustainability. Local governments and schools are using their own resources to disseminate MBE models.

16. How will DBE engage the private sector?

- DBE will actively partner with the international and Indonesian private sector to expand the reach and impact of the program, in DBE priority provinces as well as in other more isolated regions of Indonesia.
- Through public-private alliances (PPAs) at the local and national level, DBE will help leverage the high corporate interest in strengthening education in Indonesia.

17. Does USAID provide assistance for early childhood education programs?

- DBE supports the strengthening of kindergarten-level education.
- USAID is working with Sesame Workshop to develop an Indonesian version of the highly successful early childhood education television show, *Sesame Street*.

18. Does USAID work with special needs and handicapped students?

- USAID supports Helen Keller International (HKI) on promoting inclusive education in Jakarta including early intervention programming, enrollment of children with visual impairments, and advocacy and policy development. HKI works closely with MONE and is developing models which can be adapted throughout Indonesia.

19. What proportion of private schools in Indonesia follows the national curriculum?

- It is impossible to know the correct answer to this question because not all private schools are required to register with the GOI. However it is estimated that most of the **students** attending private schools are studying the national curriculum so that they may take the national examinations in order to qualify for additional education.

20. Does USAID support school feeding programs?

- USAID does not directly support school feeding programs. However, the USDA (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture) does implement a number of school feeding programs in Indonesia, providing items such as milk and biscuits to thousands of needy school children in Indonesia.